

2/28/2019

Connecticut General Assembly
Environment Committee

Re: HB 6637 An Act Requiring an Invasive Species Stamp for the Operation of a Motorboat on the Inland Waters of the State

Dear Representatives,

I am a Board Member of the Connecticut Federation of Lakes and I am writing to express my support for HB No 6637 An Act Requiring an Invasive Species Stamp for the Operation of a Motorboat on the Inland Waters of the State.

Protecting the water quality of Connecticut Lakes is essential for all of the reasons fresh water is important: drinking water supply, recreation, human health, and ecological health. However, I am going to focus my appeal in this statement on economics. I suspect that Representatives who would reject this proposal would do so because a user fee is 'just another tax'. I would like to argue that a user fee is the most fair way to obtain the money required to combat the persistent problem of aquatic invasive plants, since boaters are a user group impacted by aquatic invasive plants and can be a vector for their dispersion. Doing nothing to combat aquatic invasive plants is also expensive. Doing nothing allows new and persistent species to establish and spread to more and more of our lakes and ponds. Lakeshore homes are a critical element for the local property tax base in many Connecticut municipalities. It has been shown that water quality impairments impact property values which will directly impact the budgets of our cities and towns. This user fee will help ensure that the user group of boaters, particularly out of state boaters, partially pay for the maintenance of the resource they use.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Canavan".

Richard Canavan, PhD
Pomfret, Connecticut

cc: Pat Boyd, 50th District